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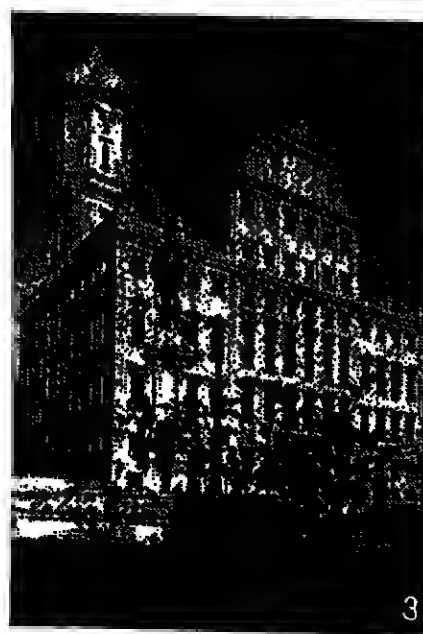
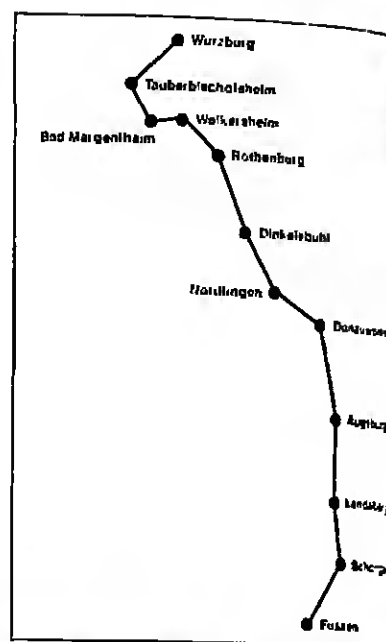
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- 1 The Tauber valley
- 2 Rothenburg ob der Tauber
- 3 Augsburg
- 4 Würzburg

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Nato foreign ministers sit down and take stock

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

The meeting of the 16 Nato Foreign Ministers in the seclusion of Wye Pines, near Washington D.C., was a welcome opportunity to take stock.

It was an appraisal of the condition and future of the North Atlantic pact, born 35 years ago and by no means spared its fair share of crises.

France's Claude Cheysson, who is sharply critical of Moscow's powerful psychological and political pressure on Western Europe, was in the chair.

Given France's 1966 decision to withdraw from Nato, his chairmanship was doubtless more than a merely symbolic gesture.

The stocktaking did not amount to a nostalgic backward glance at three decades of peace.

It was a matter of jointly drawing up a strategy taking into account constantly changing political, military and economic developments in the world.

A crucial question was whether the stability of tried and trusted means was continually put to the test, was all enough to preserve peace.

As expected, tension in East-West relations held pride of place in the informal

debate.

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Nato secretary-general Joseph Luns referred to the December 1983 Brussels declaration emphasising the West's readiness to negotiate in the interest of Western security.

Non-Nato global hot spots reviewed ranged from the extremely volatile Gulf War between Iran and Iraq to the latest signs of independence on the part of non-aligned Angola and Mozambique.

Views initially differed on the wording of the West-East declaration Bonn was keen to see made, but there was a wide spectrum of agreement on East-West ties.

The jointly drafted paper reflected a unanimous feeling that defence and arms control are integral parts of security policy.

Without making concessions, which Washington fears might be taken as a sign of weakness, Bonn's Hans-Dietrich Genscher called for continued offers of talks with the Soviet Union.

These offers were to be accompanied by the query whether Moscow stood to derive greater benefit from the arms race than from cooperation with the West.

Debate was based on a confidential East-West report drawn up at the suggestion of Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans and harking back to the essentials of the 1967 Harmel Report.

The Harmel Report reaffirmed the steadfastness of the North Atlantic pact and was hailed by Nato Foreign Ministers as having been a trailblazer.

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US Secretary of State George Shultz (left) and Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher at the Nato meeting near Washington

stability it provided for the divided city, and developments in intra-German ties.

The Harmel formula of military strength and cooperation is felt to have resulted in the success and dynamic progress of multilateral conferences at which smaller countries stand a chance of developing their national identity.

Herr Genscher's view, that consistent Nato policies benefited the West more than the Soviet Union in the long term, was shared by his American counterpart, Secretary of State Shultz.

President Reagan finally stressed that "our commitment to collective security will continue to be a reliable bulwark against aggression, terrorism and tyranny."

Mr Luns, retiring after 13 years as Nato secretary-general, had the last word. "The Alliance," he was good-humouredly quoted by President Reagan as saying, "is like Wagner's music. It is better than it sounds."

Viola Herms Drath
(Handelsblatt, 1 June 1984)



After the summit
President Mitterrand (right) and Chancellor Kohl at the end of their summit near Paris (See page 2)
(Photos: dp4)

Botha takes his case to the world

The South African government has done more to contain racial problems in the first five months of this year than in the past 20 years.

Even the much-vaunted new constitution, which last year granted Indians and coloureds (but not the black majority) a limited say in how the country was run, was intended more to consolidate white rule than to foster further reforms.

Yet it has had one effect: that of laying the ghost of a party-political split that had given Prime Minister Botha nightmares for years, even (so it was said) preventing him from carrying out serious reforms.

Seventeen disgusted members of his National Party may have resigned to form an extreme right-wing party of their own, but there were only 17 of them, and Mr Botha is now stronger than ever.

This, and progress in relations with neighbouring black African states, is doubtless why P. W. Botha is now keen to emerge from isolation, and it will also be why Chancellor Kohl is so willing to receive him.

The latest developments in southern Africa have come in swift succession, starting in February when the first talks with Angola were held in Lusaka.

They were held in the presence of Chester A. Crocker, head of the Africa Department at the US State Department, whose services have been invaluable.

In March it was learnt from Cuba that Fidel Castro and the Angolan head of state had discussed details of the withdrawal of the roughly 25,000 Cuban troops in Angola.

At the same time the South Africans said they were prepared to withdraw Continued on page 2

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Too early to expect big powers to start talking

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The United States and the Soviet Union are not likely to get down to serious talking before next year at the earliest.

Even if President Reagan is beaten by a Democratic challenger in the presidential election, this would not necessarily lead to a quick resumption of talks.

There is still too much mistrust on both sides. The Kremlin leadership is still in a state of transition. Mr. Chernomir doesn't have the situation under control.

Moscow's behaviour is governed by the mixture of mistrust and a defensive attitude exemplified by Foreign Minister Gromyko and Defence Minister Ustinov respectively.

Nothing has been done for five years to halt the progress of the arms race.

Hopes of a code of behaviour gaining acceptance in the nuclear age (hopes on which the 1972 agreements were based) are fading visibly as one ultra-modern weapon system after another is devised.

They are also vanishing as each side's nuclear stockpiles grow steadily more vulnerable and as weaponry seems poised to take off into outer space.

The most important arms control agreement so far reached, that on the superpowers' anti-ballistic missile systems, seems already to have been undermined by Soviet experiments with anti-radar defences.

If President Reagan's Star Wars concept is carried out, arms control agreements will be made meaningless once and for all.

Maintaining the balance of power and a deterrent that can be fairly sure to work will have fallen foul of technology increasingly dependent on computers being foolproof.

These are the facts that lie behind

Continued from page 1.

their forces from Angola, where they had moved in 200 miles to eliminate Swapo guerrillas and their facilities. The withdrawal has since been completed.

In April an astonished world witnessed a drama no-one would have thought possible. The white Premier of South Africa and the black President of Mozambique jointly inspected honour guards to the accompaniment of their respective national anthems.

They had just signed a non-aggression pact ending long, embittered hostility between their two countries.

Latest and not least, in May Swapo leaders and representatives of Namibia and South Africa conferred in Luanda at a meeting of blacks and whites who had sworn eternal enmity and fought each other for years by means of terror and counter-terror.

Yet another step forward, and no less surprising, is that in February a white police officer who had killed a black was convicted for the first time ever and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Several others have since been given

Moscow's increasing obduracy toward Washington and the consequences of President Reagan's bid to make the Soviet Union readier to negotiate by virtue of an American arms build-up.

They in no way detract from the accuracy of Washington's viewpoint that America was not met half-way by Russia in response to its readiness to negotiate during the detente years.

Moscow did indeed use the period to draw level strategically in all sectors and to make headway in minor theatres, such as Afghanistan.

In US government circles it is noted time and again that the East-West dialogue is continuing regardless of the political chill. The Kremlin is expected to realise sooner or later that a resumption of talks is in the Soviet interest.

Nato Foreign Ministers, meeting in Washington, were bound to reiterate this point in their final communiqué, partly to soothe troubled European nerves (German in particular).

President Reagan has just repeated that there is no-one readier than he is for negotiations and for peace, but there can be no misunderstanding the US response to Soviet threats.

We Americans, the argument runs, have made our proposals at both rounds of Geneva talks. They are fair because both superpowers stand to benefit from them. The same goes for the US proposals to scrap chemical weapons.

It was the Russians, not the Americans, who left Geneva. It is the Russians, not the Americans, who reject each and every proposal.

OK then, the argument continues, we Americans have the nerves to see it through, and to quote President Reagan, "the Soviets know we can run rings round 'em any time."

What lies behind that remark is that even the modified US Star proposal calls on Moscow to largely axe its strategic mainstay, the heavy, land-based ICBMs.

Yet at the same time the Soviet Union

is constantly deploying new SS-20s against Western Europe and Asia, stationing extra short-range missiles in the East Bloc countries and increasing the number of its nuclear submarines stationed off the US coast.

How long is this state of affairs to continue? From outer space to the Los Angeles Olympics, from modernisation of the hot line telephone between the White House and the Kremlin to negotiations on consulates — there is nothing doing in ties between the superpowers.

Treaty drafts on a general ban on nuclear tests and on limits to the explosive strength of underground explosions remain unratified. Starts to negotiations on anti-satellite weapons are not followed up.

There are no acute crises on, say, the Central European front, and Moscow has so far been careful in the Near and Middle East, as Washington sees it.

But reciprocal judgements are strictly negative, lending special importance to ex-President Nixon's recent comment that there would be no peace as long as a new relationship between Washington and Moscow was not struck up.

The two peoples might want peace, but "on account of our irreconcilable differences our two governments can never be friends. But they can't afford to be enemies either."

Both would have to learn how to live with their differences instead of being destroyed by them.

Whether one called it peaceful rivalry or cold peace, it was certainly preferable to nuclear destruction.

This is a point both Mr Reagan and Mr Chernomir must hear in mind. Technological development is proceeding faster than either the power struggle in the Kremlin or the US Presidential election campaign.

The partners in Europe ought to be making sensible proposals on how the ice in ties between the superpowers can be superseded by a thaw.

They ought also to credibly reinforce their conventional defences instead of hiding their fear behind protestations of loyalty or heaving the whipping boy in disputes between Washington and Moscow.

prison sentences for torturing black prisoners. One can but hope that will mean an end to prison torture. Since 1963 fifty-three prisoners have died in mysterious circumstances.

By South African law political suspects can still be detained indefinitely. Those who fall out of favour can still be "exiled" to some remote part of the country for years without so much as a court hearing.

Beyers Naudé, the former head of the now proscribed Christian Institute in Johannesburg, is a case in point.

Raids are still made on black settlers who have built ramshackle shanty towns in designated white areas. The bulldozers move in, and within hours homeless blacks are sent by the truckload to their homelands where they are supposed to live.

They make their way back the next day because in the homeland they would starve to death.

The cruel resettlement programmes aimed at dividing the country into neat zones for whites, coloureds and blacks are still not over either.

Coloured people are relentlessly pushed to and fro. About 3.5 million have so far been resettled. A further

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Franco-German anti-tank helicopter deal

France and Germany have agreed to join forces in designing and building an anti-tank helicopter by the 1990s.

Defence Ministers Charles Hirsch and Manfred Wörner signed the agreement in Paris. Details had been agreed for years by military and industrial leaders in the two countries.

It will be the first major Franco-German military project since the Alpha training and ground combat aircraft, the failure of plans to build a Franco-German battle tank.

Both governments attach great symbolic importance to the agreement, the context of Franco-German military and alliance cooperation.

They also see it as an important step in the direction of greater independence in European defence.

The signing was the highlight of a 43rd Franco-German summit, which began with talks behind closed doors at the Elysee Palace between President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl.

Armed forces in both countries are to gain a modern, mobile means of fighting both enemy helicopters and tanks, regardless of weather and light.

Combined requirements are said to total 527 helicopters, including 222 for the Bundeswehr, to be supplied by the end of 1992, and 315 for the French army, which will take delivery a year earlier.

The French army wants to order helicopters in an anti-helicopter version. It feels anti-tank helicopters need to be protected from aerial attack.

France plans mainly to equip its deployment force, currently in the process of being raised, with the new helicopter. It will be stationed in central France as a Nato strategic reserve, including four airborne divisions.

The 'copter project threatened the last moment to fall foul of roadblocks. One was the German wish to see the helicopter out with US night vision equipment that was eventually ruled out on cost grounds.

Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, the German main contractor, threatened to scupper the project by demanding DM900m in development costs.

MBB will jointly manufacture the helicopter with France's Aerospatiale as the Bonn Defence Ministry has gained the cost down to DM475m.

Swinging cuts were made because the Defence Ministry was worried, not without cause, that the original terms would be butchered at committee stage in the Bundestag.

August Graf Koenig (Die Welt, 29 May 1984)

He did so at the wrong time and without style.

To take the wind out of his political enemies' sails he stirred up a storm. The small FDP ship will suffer for this. When it capsizes more will go down than just the FDP.

How do experienced politicians see the future? The Free Democrats have at the present in Bonn three ministers under fire. Genscher has lost some weight as Foreign Minister.

In view of the internal and external problems facing the country the Chancellor cannot afford to wait much longer before he reforms the Cabinet.

Younger men should take over when Hans-Dietrich Genscher, 57, gives up the chairmanship of the Free Democratic Party.

Foreign Minister Genscher has spoken of "an outstanding generation of state party chairman".

The men he was referring to, all in their late 30s or early forties, are:

Jürgen Morlok, 38, chairman of the FDP in Baden-Württemberg. Since April 1978 he has led the FDP in the south-west. Morlok, born in Karlsruhe and an economics graduate, has had a story-book career so far. He entered the Stuttgart Parliament in 1972, and in 1976 was appointed the party floor leader.

He was in favour of the change to the Union parties. In the 1980 state elections he was able to halt the decline that had affected the liberals for a decade. He suffered a set-back as the party tactician when he came out in favour of the coalition with the CDU. The FDP lost 1.1 per cent in the state elections in March. The result for this election, 7.2 per cent of the vote, was the worst ever recorded in Baden-Württemberg by the FDP.

Jürgen Möllemann, 38, became chairman of the FDP in North Rhine-Westphalia in April 1983 after his vigorous championship of the change to the CDU. This made him leader of the FDP's largest, 22,000 members, state party. He always stood by the party establishment around Genscher and Count Otto Lambsdorff, so that his predecessor, Burkhard Hirsch always referred to him as Genscher's ventriloquist.

What are they going to do without me? ... Hans-Dietrich Genscher at the FDP conference. (Photo: Sven Simon)

HOME AFFAIRS

Genscher to quit party leadership; in the meantime, he's re-elected

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is to resign the leadership of the junior coalition partner, the Free Democrats, but not until 1986. Days after his announcement, he was re-elected chairman at the party's annual conference. The main government worry is that Genscher's successor will be from the left wing.

It is a difficult thing to resign over a period of two years, so Hans-Dietrich Genscher was duly re-elected Free Democrat Party chairman by a big majority at the annual conference.

The names of possible successors are being discussed, but the problem is that there is nobody capable of holding the party factions together: there are 20 camps within the one camp.

The party has no single vision. It survived on the strength of Walter Scheel, then on Genscher. The future of the Economic Affairs Minister, Count Otto Lambsdorff, is in doubt. And, behind all this, there is little efficiency in the party machinery.

Genscher is widely regarded as a pure politician. Because of this, some observers think that he is playing a tactical game. As they see it, he will look on as the others bicker with one another and emerge alone as the leader from out of the crowd.

But those who know him as a politician, however, know that that will not happen. Genscher is a sensible man who has suffered considerably for the decision to change coalition partners. He has done much personally to ensure that the new alliance is consolidated.

The result is that he has undertaken ever more trans-continental trips. He no longer talks of going along with "friends". At 57 he is still a young politician. He gives the impression that he does not want to go on. His decision is irrevocable.

In Münster, at the latest after the European Parliament Elections on 17 June, the Chancellor will know if the FDP is large enough to be of political service.

The political clout of the party has been reduced by the debacle of the party donations amnesty legislation.

Genscher was badly hurt by this defeat. So much so in fact that he presented like a rabbit out of the hat, on a television programme, his decision to limit the time he would serve as chairman of the FDP. He announced his decision without consultation.

He did so at the wrong time and without style.

To take the wind out of his political enemies' sails he stirred up a storm. The small FDP ship will suffer for this. When it capsizes more will go down than just the FDP.

How do experienced politicians see the future? The Free Democrats have at the present in Bonn three ministers under fire. Genscher has lost some weight as Foreign Minister.

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What are they going to do without me? ... Hans-Dietrich Genscher at the FDP conference. (Photo: Sven Simon)

He was horn in Leipzig and studied economics. He is regarded as well able to give continuity to the party and bring the various sections of the party together. Before the change to the CDU in Bonn Hirsch was against a coalition with the CDU in Lower Saxony, contrary to the attitude taken by the state chairman Heinrich Jürgens.

Wolfgang Gerhardt, 40, is FDP leader in Hesse and a member of the FDP national executive. He has been chairman of the FDP in Hesse since November 1982, when for the first time the FDP failed to get five per cent of the votes, the necessary minimum to enter the state parliament.

He was elected party state chairman after the new elections in September 1983. The FDP was once more elected into the state parliament as a result of statements to the effect that the party would enter a new coalition with the CDU. He was born in Ulrichstein-Helpersheim.

Walter Rasch, 42, is chairman of the state party in West Berlin and a member of the national executive. He studied political science and has been in the West Berlin Parliament since 1971. From 1975 to 1981 he was the senator responsible for education in the social-liberal coalition.

When there was a change of government in West Berlin in 1981 he took the view that the FDP should support the CDU Senate, and was allegedly mixed up in negotiations for a coalition agreement in spring 1983, without his going back into the Senate. Despite this he was elected chairman of the state party and leader of the FDP party in Parliament. (Bremer Nachrichten, 29 May 1984)

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The FDP do not have any compelling people to offer as alternatives.

The party, whose good name rests on the personal qualities of its leading members, has dried up at its roots. It brings to mind the death of the forest.

The damage will go to the account of the total coalition, however. The Chancellor's fortunes rest on coalitions. What does Helmut Kohl have to say, what is he going to do?

Disappointment is just as much a part of politics as is resentment.

There will be no lack of good advice. A well known Union politician said that all efforts should be made to achieve a majority after the FDP has gone down.

The first can be accomplished easily, but the second would be an incredible accident. Is it possible to get an absolute majority in a Bundestag election?

The question is justified because a government must make extensive decisions for re-organisation.

When the Union was at its political peak in 1957 Konrad Adenauer and Ludwig Erhard were at the peak of their political and economic successes. The economy was then about to take off.

Today the Chancellor is standing among the debris and only with difficulty will he extricate himself. It is obvious now that future wage disputes will always bring with them the threat of a political strike.

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■ THE EEC

Euro MPs swim against a tide of apathy

DIE WELT

On the eve of the election for the European Parliament, leaders of the German parties involved all have much the same tale to tell.

"The main point," says Free Democrat Martin Bangemann, "is that we are good and no-one knows we are."

"We have done too much work unnoticed," says Social Democrat Katharina Focke. "Our publicity badly needs improving."

"We have underrated public relations," says Christian Democrat Egon Klepsch, vice-president of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

In the final stages of campaigning for the second direct elections to the European Parliament all parties are taking stock.

Their leaders in Strasbourg are far from disappointed with their first five years' work, but time has taken its toll.

The extent varies, and the degree to which it shows depends on the campaigners' day-to-day form, but Katharina Focke seems to have taken least knocks and Martin Bangemann most.

Frau Focke found the chaos of day-to-day parliamentary routine in Strasbourg most frustrating in the first two

was succeeded as president by Pict Dankert, a Dutch Socialist.

Martin Bangemann is mainly upset with the media. "It's all just grown too damn stupid," he growled at one journalist on his whistle-stop Euro-campaign for the FDP. "You and your entire news desk can stay away as far as I'm concerned."

His irritation is understandable. Euro-MPs have slogged away for five years, putting the wind up the Commission more than once, and taking the Council of Ministers to court for inactivity — but their work has gone virtually unnoticed by the public.

"At every campaign meeting," he and Klepsch complain, "you have to start by putting the audience through a couple of hours of basic facts." Then the penny drops and people suddenly wonder why they have never been told before.

This reaction is as stereotyped as the journalists' query Bangemann claims to have heard a dozen times in a matter of days:

"What can you really accomplish? You haven't any real powers."

There may be signs of improvement but there is a widespread feeling among German MEPs that they have been let down:

- by the Council of Ministers,
- by the EEC Commission,
- by their parliaments and parties back home
- and, last but not least, by public opinion.

They share a sense of bitterness, but it is, of course, a bond. "Here in Strasbourg," Frau Focke says, "people are much more obliging and human than in Bonn." Exceptions, as above, prove the rule.

The sense of community felt by MEPs is soundly based. In five years the European Parliament has suggested solutions to nearly all the Common Market's problems, some less convincing (as in common agricultural policy), others more (as on EEC budget policies).

Frau Focke admits that: "We took too long over our teething troubles, but we eventually made the change from a talking shop to a parliament."

That was no easy task. There were members of 58 different parties grouped in seven parliamentary parties at Strasbourg. They spoke seven different languages and it was hard work reconciling differences.

Besides, half the 434 MEPs were newcomers as either MEPs or MPs.

But they now work in relative harmony, although that is less true of the



Egon Klepsch... forgot the power card

Socialists, who represent parties in all 10 EEC countries, than of the Christian Democrats and Liberals.

And it's not always plain sailing for them either. Not for nothing did members of the Christian Democratic group cable Egon Klepsch after an accident in 1980 saying: "Get well soon, Egon, everything's at sixes and sevens here."

But his accident at a time when he was European parliamentary party leader of the Christian Democrats was but a foretaste of what was to come when he resigned as leader in 1982 to stand for president.

Even political opponents will not deny that parliamentary work at Strasbourg and in the Christian Democratic group would be better organised and more effective if he had either been elected president or remained at the helm of the party group.

The long march to European power has been through many stages, mostly uphill. By rejecting or amending EEC budgets the MEPs have helped to offset the overemphasis on farm policy.

More attention is now paid to regional and social policy, to European development aid and in European structural policy.

The European Parliament's budget hedges have saved the taxpayer much more than the DM1.67 a year they cost, and the European Parliament is only a third as expensive as the Bonn Bundestag and a sixth of the cost of the US House of Representatives.

No chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers can now afford not to report to the European Parliament, and no EEC Commissioner can risk failing to appear to answer parliamentary questions.

Incidentally, all three Euro-candidates feel the Assembly was wrong not to have eased the burden on the Commission earlier. "We didn't play our power card as we could and should have done," says Herr Klepsch.

Frau Focke feels the unsatisfactory draft on plans for a reform of the Euro-



Martin Bangemann... fad up with the press

pean Community would have warranted a vote of no-confidence.

Herr Klepsch and Herr Bangemann feel the Commission's budget policies are even more deserving of a vote of no-confidence, but they preferred not to go the whole hog so shortly before the elections, fearing MEPs might find themselves cast as the scapegoats.

Even so, "Europe as it exists at present is in a mess," as Katharina Focke tells voters. The other two are no less critical, and all three are keen to make a distinction clear to voters.

It is the distinction between "them" in Brussels, who slam on the anchors, and "us" in Strasbourg. But voters are more likely to confuse the two and not bother to vote when the time comes.

Fifty-six per cent of West Germans feel unable to express an opinion of one kind or another about the work of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Because we have failed to concentrate on major issues, Herr Klepsch says they have been neglected. He is referring to issues such as plans for political union and economic recovery in the EEC.

MEPs are by no means of one mind on all issues, of course. Frau Focke feels constitutional plans are the result of an ivory-tower approach and some of its provisions are "stilted and nonsense."

Bangemann and Klepsch were more or less agreed on policies throughout the last session but are strongly opposed to SPD calls for a 35-hour week and government manpower programmes to combat unemployment.

"Europe," Frau Focke says, "is not an issue. Unemployment is what counts, and what the European Community is doing about it."

While not disagreeing, Bangemann and Klepsch ask what the EEC can do, emphasising institutional issues instead. But none are pessimistic with election day just around the corner.

Frau Focke says she is a realistic idealist. Bangemann and Klepsch are convinced there will be further progress in Strasbourg. It is, Herr Klepsch argues, the only place where decisions are reached in the Community's interest.

Yet their optimism is mingled with and again with scepticism. Could it be that more action is needed and fewer words? It wouldn't be the first time.

Take Martin Bangemann's reaction to François Mitterrand's announcement of his intention to support the European Parliament's call for European political union.

"Why," he asks, "doesn't Mitterrand first go to his Prime Minister, Maauro, and say: 'My dear Pierre, tomorrow you will simplify border controls and next month you will abolish them!'"

Ulrich Lütke
(Die Welt, 24 May 1984)

■ PERSPECTIVE

40 years since Normandy invasion and all that

Hitler brushed aside any idea of ending the war, as suggested to him by Rommel, for instance.

For a while the Allies kept their fingers crossed, wondering whether their luck would hold, but in the end their unbroken morale and immense material superiority prevailed.

The Germans lacked everything: reinforcements, equipment and, above all, air power.

The V1, aimed at targets in England a week after the Allied landing in retaliation, was ineffective. All it achieved was constant, unremitting Allied aerial bombardment of Germany.

The Wehrmacht's supreme command began to use mainly cynicism for withdrawal, such as straightening out the front or setting up a new main battle line.

In mid-July, two days before he was seriously injured in an air raid, Rommel reported to Hitler that: "The troops are fighting heroically everywhere, but the unequal struggle is drawing to a close."

It was indeed. In July the German defences were overrun. Paris fell in August. In September the Allies reached the Westwall. Rome had been lost in June.

Shortly afterwards the Russians went on to the attack in the central sector of the Eastern front, reaching the East Prussian border on 1 August.

The Allied invasion of Normandy 40 years ago began at full noon and low tide on the cliff-lined, forbidding coast. For days beforehand 5,500 Allied bombers and fighter-bombers had rained the hinterland.

Then, before dawn on D Day, 6 June 1944, US and British paratroopers landed. At daybreak US and British battleships, cruisers and destroyers bombarded the coast.

Anglo-American troops and the men of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division boarded their landing craft from 5,000 ships. The final assault on Hitler's Europe was under way.

It was D Day, and the D stood for decision. It turned out to be the longest day in the history of warfare. When it was over, the Allies had landed 154,000 men, flown 25,000 air raids and established two bridgeheads.

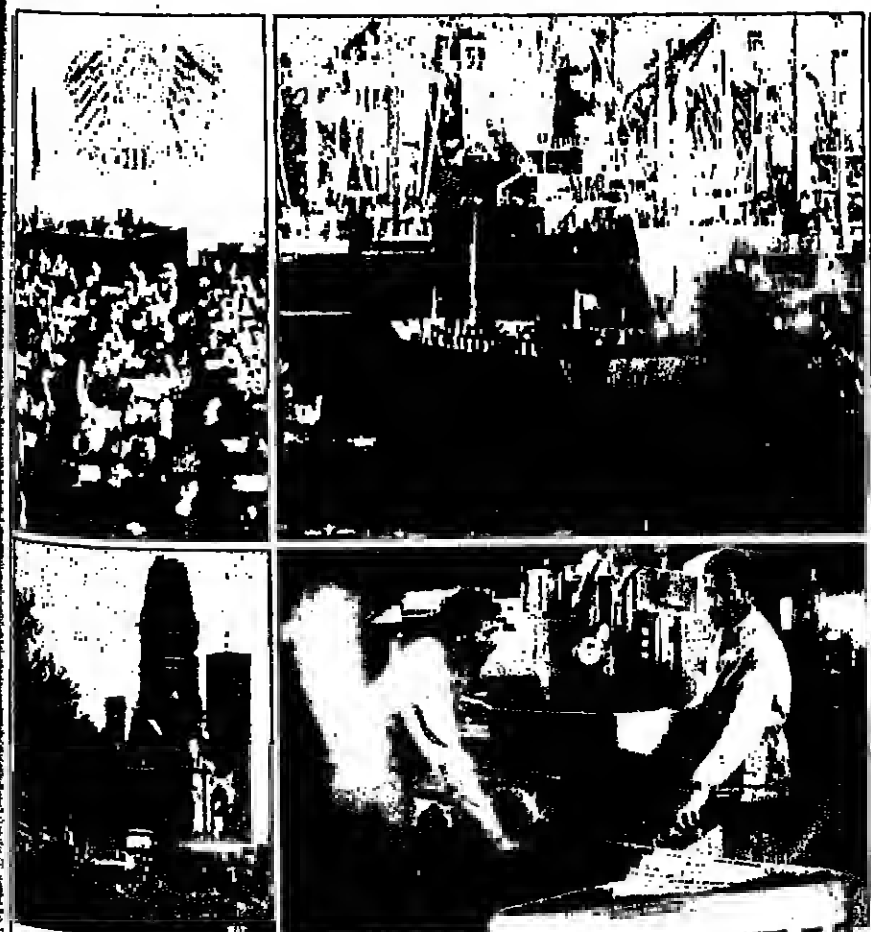
One was 25km long and 10km wide, the other 13km long and 4km wide. Unprecedented scenes had taken place, of colour and gallantry, murder and mayhem.

In the horror of combat both sides rose above themselves and supplied material for heroic tales of arduous fortitude.

Allied losses totalled roughly 111,000 killed and injured, while the Germans lost between 4,000 and 9,000 men. The great battlefields of history, from Cannae to Gettysburg, from Port Arthur to Verdun, pale in comparison with the fighting on this one day.

It was definitely a day of decision, a day on which the die was cast. Hitler had said shortly beforehand that the war would be lost if the enemy succeeded in placing a foothold in France.

After the Allied invasion had succeeded, he refused to act accordingly.



What is happening in Germany? How does Germany view the world?

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There may not have been a north-south division, but that was only because the East-West clash, beginning in 1945, had already led to the division of Germany and Europe along the Elbe.

While the West Germans were gradually promoted to the status of virtual co-victors, the East Germans were left with what was left of the Nazi catastrophe.

We lost only unity; they lost all hopes of freedom too. We experienced the *Wirtschaftswunder*, or so-called miracle of post-war economic recovery; they lagged behind materially in spite of impressive reconstruction programmes.

Johannes R. Becher, who wrote the GDR national anthem, hoped to see "the sun shine over Germany more gloriously than ever." It has done, but only in the West.

We West Germans owe to the success of D Day the fact that we are better off than our fellow-countrymen on the other side of the barbed-wire emplacements that line the East German border.

The third realisation deals not with our relationship with German history but with relations with the Americans.

Much of what we periodically carp about with regard to the Americans — their leanings toward ideology, their urge to improve the world, their crusade mentality — is due to their own national origins.

But the searing experience of the D Day landings and the Allied invasion of Normandy seemed to hem them out and reaffirm the validity of such ideas.

Hitler was a "huddle" if ever there was one. His Reich was the realm of evil. To free the Old World from the Nazi yoke was a deeply moral task that all just men applauded.

No-one disputed the need for the Crusade in Europe, as General Eisenhower entitled his memoirs, and no-one doubted it was right, just and necessary to oust the tyrant.

Everyone knew that tyranny was far worse than the war that was being fought to end it. Might and morality coincided more closely than at virtually any moment in history.

Whenever the Americans have since sought to liberate other countries or avert a threat to their freedom — in Vietnam, in Korea and even in Grenada — they have always had visions of 1944 in mind.

When President Reagan refers to the realm of evil and calls for a crusade against totalitarianism, it is a gesture dating back 40 years that seems so irresponsible to many today. That must be appreciated before it is criticised.

It is 40 years since the Allies landed at Sainte-Mère-Eglise, Point-du-Hoc and Arromanches. The world has since changed, and so has war. The superpowers have built up stockpiles of 50,000 nuclear weapons.

Nuclear potential has changed the moral calculation on which any resort to arms must be based. It calls for a redefinition of meaningful sacrifice and criminal audacity, of the relationship between a permissible risk and an inconceivable hazard.

The battle for Normandy was the last of its kind, light years away from Armageddon. After a nuclear holocaust there would not be enough survivors to bury the dead, no war graves to visit, and no victory ceremonies to attend.

Victory, as President Kennedy put it, would turn to ashes in our mouths. It would no longer be the longest day for mankind but the longest night. D would stand not for decision but for destruction.

Theo Sommer
(Die Zeit, 1 June 1984)



Katharina Focke... alated by the work
(Photo: Poly-Press)

years of her term, but she now feels elated by the character of work at the Palais de l'Europe.

Leading the field as the No. 1 SPD candidate was another matter. She took on this assignment out of a sense of duty to others: "I'm doing it for the younger Social Democrats I am particularly fond of."

She is referring to fellow-Social Democratic MEPs such as Heidi Marie Wiczorek-Zeul, Beate Weber, Gerd Walter and Gerhard Schmid.

Egon Klepsch, the No. 1 CDU candidate, may not readily admit it, but his 1982 election defeat hurt.

In 1979 he and Herr Bangemann, the Liberal leader in Strasbourg, helped Simone Veil to secure election as president of the European Parliament, but three years later she (and others) left him in the lurch.

In 1982 the centre-right majority no longer held, and Egon Klepsch had to make do with vice-president. Mme Veil

The next Commission president: well, is he or isn't he?

Bonn would like a German as the next president of the EEC Commission. The German government is said to have told other Common Market countries.

Deputy government spokesman Jürgen Südhoff, however, dismissed as speculation reports that Christian Democrat Kurt Biedenkopf was in line to succeed Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg. Names had not yet been considered.

Professor Biedenkopf mentioned

these rumours at the Stuttgart CDU conference. Asked whether Chancellor Kohl had discussed matters with him, he answered evasively. That, he said, was a question for the Chancellor to answer.

Herr Kohl was also evasive, saying that international talks had still to be held on who was to be nominated for the post. Kurt Biedenkopf has been in the running several times for leading international jobs.

dpa
(Die Welt, 11 May 1984)

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■ LABOUR

Tough going in search for compromise in 35-hour week strike

DIE ZEIT

Hans Mayr and other senior officials of IG Metall, the engineering workers' union, assured everyone in the first days of the labour dispute that the strike front remained firm.

The employers from their camp replied that their defences were bomb-proof. Expressions of this kind were hurled about, one side or the other believing that they had a monopoly of them.

The head of a south German company said that employers were standing back to back in the wages dispute as they had never done before. He added: "There is a solidarity you would never have believed possible."

This statement is true for today. A few months ago things were quite different.

A personnel manager who was also a member of his company's negotiating team said: "Major companies were prepared to make concessions in order to avoid making the dispute more bitter. But the small and medium-sized companies put up a fierce resistance against this." The mention of shortened working time was for them like a red flag to a bull.

There was a time when the major companies in the metalworking industry considered coming to an agreement with the unions over pay and working conditions outside the employers' association.

"We cannot just stand by doing nothing, answering with a stereotyped no all the time," said the chairman of the executive board of an internationally well-known Bavarian company, commenting on past considerations.

The metalworking industry's employers' association, Gesamtmetall, larger than the print employers' association, answered the demand for a 35-hour week with proposals of flexible working hours. This brought all the heretics back into line.

In the meantime the position had changed.

IG Metall's "pin-prick" tactics meant that small firms were the first to be faced with strike action. "Many of them are having to deal with a labour dispute in their own backyard for the very first time," sneered an employers' representative.

He added: "Many who once played tough guys suddenly went weak at the knees."

Only representatives of the major companies presented a hard front. Now it was being said that the matter had to be seen through to the end. "We did not get in return any increases in production for the concessions we made eighteen months ago, concessions on questions of working time, concessions that would have made it possible for us to introduce shorter working time. But they've missed the boat. Whoever gives way too quickly now has lost the wages battle."

Many metalworkers and printers must be tormented with the feeling that a great chance has been missed.

The employers have now made concessions that in the early stages of the pay round discussion would have been unthinkable. They fear that the dispute for a 35-hour week at equal pay can so

escalate that there is no way of knowing where it will lead to.

Horst Mettke, a pay expert with the chemicals workers union said that he did not understand the ways of the world and longer. "If I had been in my colleagues' position I would have tied the employers right down after they had made public such a cosy offer: more pay and wages, early retirement and the like."

Warnings to the metalworkers and printers that they should return to the negotiating table to discuss the concessions, honourable for the union, came to nothing.

A representative of the West German car manufacturing industry said that for his industry alone the four-week-old strike had meant a huge drop in production and a loss of DM10 billion. He added: "The threat of a drop in exports is particularly painful."

IG Metall felt the pain, and more quickly than was expected.

Although the union leadership planned the blockade of accessory industries to car manufacturers they were completely taken aback by the effect this had on production.

The fact that suddenly thousands of auto industry workers were involved in the strike — and an additional drain on IG Metall's finances — did not please union officials at the Frankfurt headquarters one little bit, officials who had spoken so much of solidarity.

The numbers drawing strike pay rose considerably when more firms were shut down, the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg declined to make payments to those affected by the strike from public funds, and finally lock-outs.

The escalating situation, that threatened both sides with further financial losses, gave rise to speculation that the dispute would quickly end. But who could see a solution?

The personnel manager from an electro-industry company predicted: "I would not mind betting that a way will be found round the dispute concerning the hours worked in a week and that an agreement will be reached on the number of hours to be worked in a year, with more free time for certain groups."



Taking the message to Bonn

(Photo: Sven Simon)

A manager from the car industry said: "Perhaps hourly work on the basis of a year — 52 hours instead of 40 — minus something."

This would mean that the employers had defended their precious forty-hour week. IG Metall would be able to claim that the working week had been reduced below the magical forty hours without a reduction in pay.

This is the case now. For a long time the working week has been below forty hours when holidays, national holidays and paid time-off for illness is taken into consideration.

How much room there is for manoeuvre for pay indexing to the inflation rate and for a real increase in wages depends on how expensive the agreement for a reduced working week will be.

In both camps there is much discussion of a solution that is called "the Bertelsmann Model", that certainly does not please Bertelsmann managers.

The argument is that introducing the 35-hour week immediately for the same pay will be a heavy burden on a number of companies. They will not be able to handle it, so they will go broke and the number of unemployed will increase.

Introducing the 35-hour week by stages, however, would fall flat on its face in the labour market, and the unions know that.

The way out of this impasse should be a social contract, a consensus phase, as it has been called, over a period of three to five years.

Employers and unions would in this period be bound to find ways to increase productivity. This would provide cash that could in part be diverted to a real pay increase, to company recapitalisation and "adjustment" to a shorter working week.

After two years the working week would be reduced by four or five hours with a jolt, and in the following years savings would be made that still had to be made to cover this.

The originators of this scheme took the view that this plan would give the economy adequate time to adjust to the shortened working week. Moderate but regular pay increases would ensure that

purchasing power was stabilised. A positive effect on the labour situation would be felt before the overall reduction in the working week.

Far-sighted managers would introduce changes in time. This would mean taking on more apprentices and re-training the unemployed, because in two or three years skilled people would be needed.

This could be a way of ending the hour dispute that threatens more and more its originators. If anything, it comes of this to help the unemployed position is in doubt. If shortening the working week is only possible with greater productivity employers would need to take on more workers. And a guarantee that workers will be satisfied for a minimal real pay increase over five years written into a social contract.

A sceptical employer said that all he would be let loose when attempts were made to save due to the shortened working week. He took the view that the size of the siege would continue for a long time.

Michael Jungblut
(Die Zeit, 25 May 1984)

Strikers brave the rain to march on Bonn

Thousands of striking engineering and other metal workers marched on Bonn in pouring rain to demonstrate solidarity with their union, IG Metall, on lockouts by employers and the 35-hour week.

Estimates of how many turned out varied. Some put it at 100,000, others at 200,000. But the number itself was not important. The main thing is that the display was impressive.

The IG Metall strike is having widespread effects, particularly in the motor industry.

Both government and employers would do well to note the mood in the unions. Demonstrations and tough talk hardly hide the fact that IG Metall has been weakened.

It is unlikely that toughness by government and employers will force the union to give in. An animal cornered is at its most dangerous.

West German unions, which play an important part in the well being of the public, feel that they are confronted by a united front of government and employers.

In fact the government has repeatedly sided with the employers' position. That is their right, but it would have been better if all political parties had kept out of the labour dispute.

The Labour Office's decision not to make payments to those affected by the strike has nothing to do with any sympathy.

If the unions make high demands they should bear a considerable part of the cost on society. They should fight for their aims with their own resources.

Social freedom is an important factor for the economic system. A complete victory or a total defeat for one side or the other would endanger this. Both sides will have to contribute to the compromise that will have to come in the end.

Both should tear down their ideological barricades. More jobs can only be created by a shortened working week if there is an additional pay hurdle for the employers.

Rigid work rules for all sectors of the economy without consideration to special circumstances, is not going to be helpful but harmful.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 May 1984)

■ BUSINESS

Retailers urged to think much longer term

Retail trades have never bothered much about forward planning. Day to day problems and an unsure future have persuaded retail traders to take the attitude of crossing bridges when they come to them.

Plans for a period of more than five years ahead are quite exceptional. A forecast about retail trade into the year 2000 would be pure fantasy.

Eckes, a company located in Niederrhein, that produces branded articles is considerably interested in future trade developments.

Walter Eggers, a member of the Eckes executive board said that a responsible manager must look to the future.

He was speaking at the Mannheim Marketing Club that discussed retail trading to the year 2000.

"The manager must be prepared to make long-term decisions," Walter Eggers said.

The studies into "Retail Trade in the Year 2000" carried out by the Battelle Institute in Frankfurt took two extreme examples of how the retail trade in West Germany could develop into the next century.

Example one depicted a company that is being hit by unstable political factors worldwide, raw materials monopolies, protectionism and increasing

unemployment. The company has not been able to weather the economic crises of the 1980s. Public transport has made the private car superfluous and the black market flourishes.

Important values are no longer efficiency, career and power, but requirements-oriented, the quality of life and emancipation. The "alternative scene" is very strong and has a political majority.

According to Battelle the company is in for a rough time and particularly the firm's branded articles. The main consideration will be: save costs. Cash and carry houses that already have a 70 per cent market share will completely wipe out shops and stores.

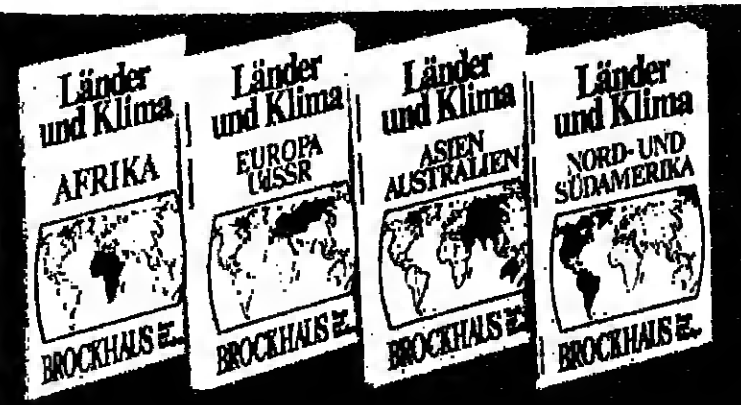
District shops will be set up, dominated by manufactured goods and no-name merchandise. There will be very few branded products any longer. All producers will be involved in manufacturing for the no-name market.

Major trading organisation will hand out the contracts. The only marketing instrument is price, that will feature large in sober advertising.

There is no future for supermarkets in a city's green belt because there are so few cars. People crowd into the city centres, carried there by public transport. In the centre of the city there will be a new kind of shop that sells everything.

The establishment of Mass in the

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

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Changes in consumer spending

Current outgoings using 1976 selection

Food, luxuries	26.6%
Rent	13.3
Transport, car, post, telephone	14.8
Insurance etc	9.6
Household effects, furniture etc	8.8
Leisure, culture, entertainment	9.1
Clothing, shoes	8.6
Power, gas, heating	4.9
Body, health care	4.8

Current outgoings using 1980 selection

Food, luxuries	24.9%
Rent	14.8
Transport, car, post, telephone	14.3
Insurance etc	8.4
Household effects, furniture etc	9.4
Leisure, culture, entertainment	8.5
Clothing, shoes	8.2
Power, gas, heating	5.5
Body, health care	4.0

The consumer: where the money goes

Offenbach city centre and City-Plaza in Duisburg are steps in this direction. An important feature of the first example will be selling health foods. There will be a marked increase in the demand for foodstuffs cultivated under defined biological and organic conditions. Price will not be such an important factor.

This example is not bound to happen, as example two shows.

The shortened working week means that most people will not be fully employed. Technology will have made enormous strides and payment for goods will be done by "memory cards". Cash will almost have disappeared. Public transport will have sunk into insignificance. The ecology conflict will be more pronounced than ever.

In the second example chain stores will have enormous possibilities, linked to considerable investment risks.

Battelle foresees shopping centres occupied by small shops. Food departments will be combined with bars, boutiques, with small restaurants and gambling centres.

Many goods will be without packaging so that they can be examined. People will go window-shopping in their leisure time but actually purchasing goods will only come second.

In this example buying will be via supply centres, with orders placed by television linked to a computer. Payment will be made by "memory cards" that can be inserted in the television. Goods will be delivered by the regional supply centre.

This kind of retail trading will not be able to finance itself. Brand name producers will carry most of the investment cost, but they will be able to introduce their products to the market.

Advertising will be all important. Customers will only order goods through the television-computer that they know well. The shopping centres can be set up in any area. Experience in the USA has shown that people will come from far afield to visit them.

In the second example, according to Dr Joachim Schoriot of the Battelle Institute, there is no much future for a specialised shop. These retail shops offering customer advice and service will not be able to cover costs. They will be considerably endangered by branded goods producers, on the one hand, and major retail trading houses on the other.

Walter Eggers said that the study would act as a stimulant. He said that it was being discussed in all sectors involved in the retail trade. He suggested that strategy commissions should be set up.

(Mannheimer Morgen, 19 May 1984)

The Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden has altered the monthly shopping basket used to work out the price index.

The base year is to be changed from 1976 to 1980.

The price index provides vital information on West German purchasing power and living standards.

The calculation is based on price monitoring of goods and services which, according to the statisticians, reflect the quantity and variety of the country's consumer demand.

The shopping basket has to be changed from time to time because new products are introduced on the market and consumer demands change.

Dead stock disappears and successful products are introduced.

The Statistics Office has to keep the shopping basket up to date, which is why the base year is being changed.

Previous base years used in Statistics Office calculations were 1950, 1958, 1962, 1970 and 1976.

The new basket includes 753 items. Previously it was only 713.

Fresh, low-fat milk, hairdressing, hi-fi

Röhrer Stadt-Anzeiger

cassette recorders, children's scooters and the minor servicing of a car, outboard motors and synthetic sheets have, for example disappeared.

Added to the items are videos, roller-skates, guitars, third-party insurance for motor-cyclists, part car insurance and mono-cell batteries.

Statistics Office president Egon Holder is well aware that price movements can only be of value when the goods in the shopping basket and consumer durables remain constant and are monitored over a long period.

The price index shopping basket must be sensitive to consumer demand changes.

For instance in 1976 food, drink and tobacco accounted for 26.7 per cent of the basket total, but these items now only make up 24.9 per cent.

On the other hand rent has increased from 13.3 per cent to 14.8 per cent.

Continued on page 8

■ COMMUNICATIONS

Satellite system to give spark a brighter life

Kieler Nachrichten

The use of geo-stationary satellites holds the key to vastly improved maritime communications.

The traditional radio-system between ships and between land-based stations and ships is not always reliable because of atmospheric conditions.

But if signals are flashed to a satellite in geo-stationary orbit — one that remains in a fixed position in relation to earth — much greater reliability can be achieved.

The idea is that a limited amount of transmission energy is directed on very high frequencies to the satellite which, because of its fixed position, is always "in sight".

The first attempt to use such an emergency system was made by the West German Research and Experimental Society for Aviation and Space Travel (DFVLR) in 1974.

In 1977 a number of major maritime nations joined in, including Britain and Norway, then Russia, Japan and the USA, and formed a working group within the European Space Agency.

The working group, headed by W. Goebel of the Institute for Communications Technology in Oberpfaffenhofen, tested and evaluated various national systems for emergency at sea satellite communication.

Continued from page 7

The energy costs share of the basket has increased considerably due to rises in energy source costs, up 37.6 per cent when there has only been a total index increase of 17 per cent.

Rents have gone up 15.4 per cent, a little less than the total increase.

The change in the share paid for accommodation is due to a shift in the kind of accommodation included in the index. This has moved from a large allocation for building a new house to high-cost small flats, from very large flats to modern apartments.

Many changes in consumer habits are reflected in detail in the price index.

Train fares, for example, have dropped from 5.8 per cent to 3.1 per cent, but the item "eating out in restaurants and public houses" has increased from 3.5 per cent to five per cent.

Private house-keeping items in the new calculation remain the same, but the change will influence the index.

On average the annual house-keeping statistic is 115.6, an increase of 3.3 per cent, according to the new base year, but if 1976 were used the increase would only be three per cent.

The change of the base year has only altered the index marginally, because of new consumer demands. Merchandise that has gone up in price dramatically is less in demand than other goods.

The new index for 1983 has increased considerably more than in 1981 and 1982. This is due to the inclusion of new items such as insurance for cars and motor-cycles that have on average increased considerably as has heating and new car models.

Peter Roller

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 May 1984)

DFVLR-developed equipment was tested first, built by Messerschmidt-Böhm-Bölkow.

A buoy, thrown overboard or marking an accident at sea had to transmit to a satellite using a maximum of only ten watts. The buoy's antennae had to contact the satellite even when the satellite was low down on the horizon or when high waves "shadowed" the transmitter.

A transmission was selected that could be beamed with the minimum of power and that could be repeated over and over again and stored in the receiving equipment.

The whole transmission, including the "hush", was registered time and time again so that a strong signal was developed. This could be deciphered in accordance with the super-position principle. Signals that are not transmitted regularly cannot be made strong enough.

The first trials were made by the DFVLR before the ESA working group was formed. A 1.5-metre high buoy with a five-watt transmitter was used. It was possible to reach the American satellite ATS 6 in winds of windforce 7, even when the satellite was on the horizon.

In a simulated accident north of the Azores it took ships and planes of the US Coastguard three hours to fish the emergency buoy out of the water. In 1982 the first comparison tests were made with the national systems from five nations, but without Japan. The tests were carried out in the earth station specially built for marine, fixed-position satellites, Inmarsat, at Villa Frinca near Madrid. The satellite "Marces A" was used.

The Inmarsat network will be made up of three satellites that will give coverage to the whole earth's surface. Two satellites are already in position in space.

The five distress at sea signalling systems were tested in environment conditions — simulated.

The West German participants on a rock in North Cape picked up signals from a buoy under "original North Sea conditions", and so altered the transmissions from the various other participants.

The final West German emergency at sea satellite equipment originated in the Dornier System and uses micro-processing techniques with a calculator installed in the receiving station.

An important feature of this distress at sea system is the constant information provided by the distress buoy on ship's position.

The significance of this was that the crew of an endangered or sinking vessel could draw attention to themselves with a faint or strong transmission signal under the worst possible ocean conditions.

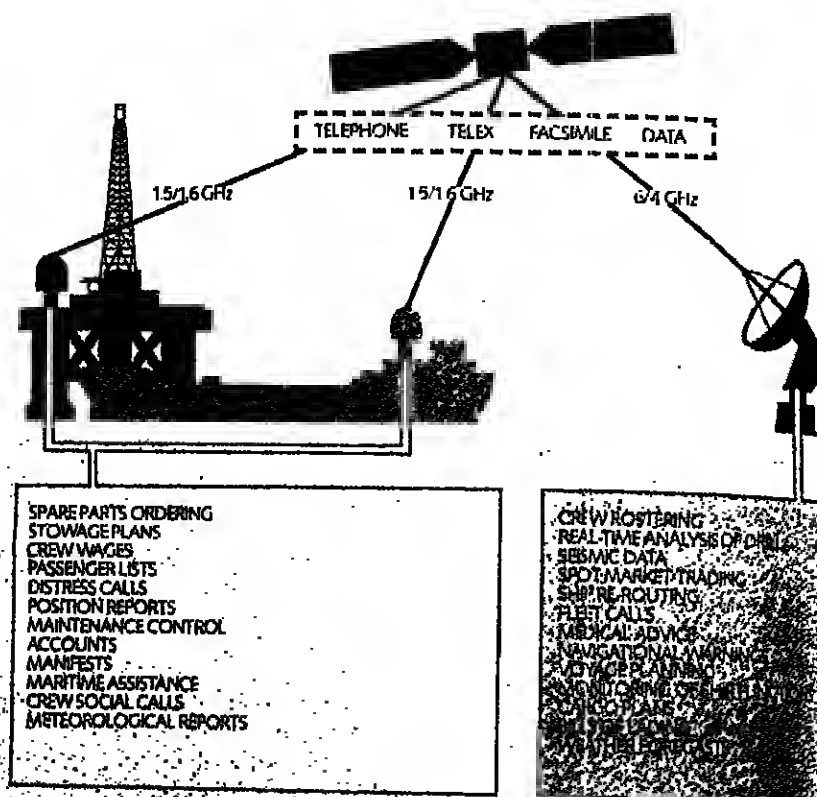
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(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 May 1984)



pants so that they seemed to be coming from a buoy in the North Sea.

Then finally last year a "real" test of the various systems was made using the research vessel "Gauss", registered in Hamburg. The five systems were used on a line from the North Cape to the North Sea.

Buoys were lnyed on cables by ships and transmitted for five hours to the Inmarsat satellites, sometimes in heavy storms in the polar night.

The West German system was able to send a transmission using only 0.6 watts, and sometimes as little as 0.1 watts. This was achieved when the satellite had a vertical section angle of only 1.6 degrees above the sea surface close to the North Cape.

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By remote-control the buoy, while aboard its "parent" ship is constantly fed with information on the vessel's position by the navigational equipment on board.

In large ships the ship's position is automatically fixed all the time. If the buoy is thrown into the sea it begins to transmit the ship's latest position automatically.

The position along with the ship's code name is beamed to the satellite. This means that a sea search can be concentrated on a very limited area if a vessel is in distress.

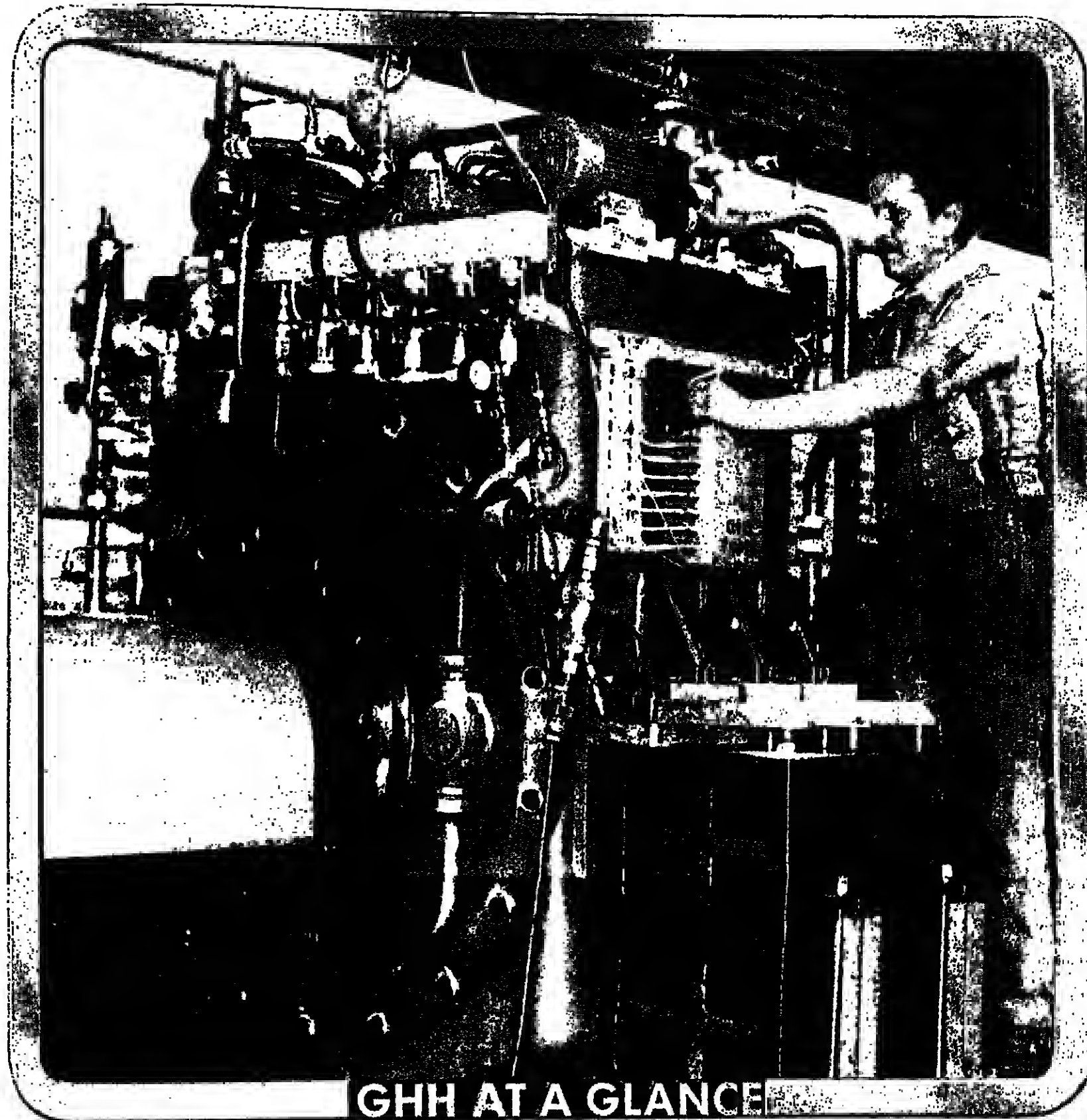
Consideration is being given to making it obligatory for vessels of a certain size and a certain class, passenger lines for instance, to carry this emergency call system at sea.

But, unless all vessels use this new satellite system then it will be necessary to continue with traditional methods.

The decision to utilise one of the systems, tested under equal sea conditions, has not yet been made. Test results have also not yet been made public.

But, according to Goebel, the West German system is well to the fore.

It is expected that a system will be in operation by 1990. *Harald Siebert* (Kieler Nachrichten, 18 May 1984)



"Gear units for high-technology specification"

Zahnradfabrik Renk AG, established in 1873, is one of the oldest companies involved in drive technology in Germany and is known world-wide as a specialist for gear units required to meet particularly stringent technological specifications. Renk gear units and transmissions are used successfully under extreme conditions in power stations, cement plants, rolling mills

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■ LITERATURE

Life in the shadow of Kafka and Rilke

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Franz Kafka and Rainer Maria Rilke are the only German-language writers from Prague who are given any status by modern literary opinion.

The others come nowhere. They are only mentioned in connection with Kafka and Rilke.

Max Brod, born 100 years ago this month, is dealt the double indignity of being hailed as a loyal friend and literary executor of Kafka's while no-one bothers to read his own work.

He is famous, if at all, for what he didn't do: destroy Kafka's unpublished manuscripts, which is what Kafka wanted.

Scant attention is paid to anything he did as a writer and critic in a long and productive life in Prague and Tel Aviv: his 82 books and countless essays and reviews.

Not even his bibliographer, Zeev Barth, succeeded in compiling a comprehensive catalogue of Brod's output.

He would have made matters easier for posterity if he, like many Prague writers, had stuck to poetry and the novel. But he didn't.

He never tired of reflecting what he felt was indestructible, worthwhile and significant in a variety of forms and genres.

He wrote poems, lengthy historical novels, popular plays with unexpectedly profound undertones, philosophical essays and memoirs.

He was convinced it was up to the individual to come to the aid of his creator and left it to the expressionists to deal with mankind in the abstract.

He preferred practical politics. He stood as a candidate for a small Jewish party in provincial Slovakia. He took part in the reform of the Jewish educational system in pre-war Czechoslovakia.

He aimed at reconciliation between Germans, Jews and Czechs when others had long been convulsed by hatred, and even in ripe old age he declared, in Israel, that Jews and Arabs still had much good to do and say to each other.

He wrote an autobiography entitled *Streitbares Leben* (A Fighting Life), yet showed in every line he wrote that he was a "polemicist against his will" and interested in continuity, not division.

In 1968, the year he died, he still had a 1937 Prague telephone directory on his desk in Tel Aviv.

Max Brod's father was a senior bank official, "educated, quiet and hard-working." His mother, who came from northern Bohemia, was "rustic, elementary, beautiful and untrained."

Their domestic situation was much the same as the Kafkas', except that the roles were reversed.

At high school he was interested in Schopenhauer and music, but he bowed to the necessity of studying law. In Austria of yesteryear there were jobs where one could work at the office in the morning and write poetry in the afternoon.

He played an active part in Prague club life, first in the German Students' Association, then in the Bar-Kochba Students' Association.

He switched allegiance after talks with Hugo Bergmann, who was later vice-chancellor of Jerusalem University, a mentor who brought home to him the meaning of his Jewish roots.

Hermann Kesten called Brod the "Post Office genius." His first job was with the Austro-Hungarian, later the Czech Post Office.

He later served at the press office of the Czech government before spending 10 years as music and literary editor of the Liberal German-language daily, *Prager Tageblatt*.

He left his home town with the last train before the Wehrmacht invaded Czechoslovakia and, with his wife Elso, followed friends who had gone ahead to Tel Aviv.

There he immediately took over as literary manager of Habimah, the well-known theatrical company.

Some years after the war's end he began to publish in German again, touring Europe annually from the mid-1950s giving lectures, seeing plays and meeting young writers and composers in post-war Czechoslovakia.

Max Brod had a decided inclination to preoccupy himself with mystical and theological ideas. It was part of a quest to gain certainty about himself in a problematic world.

Nowhere are these thoughts more effectively outlined than in his successful stories and novels, which are a happy

combination of the intimate, the philosophical and the historical.

"What will survive," Brod himself said in 1954, "will be individual poems, a few novels and the effort to uphold and renounce what is healthy and pure in tradition. Let people say of me that I was one of the last defenders of the soul."

The stories of his that are likely to last seem sure to include his *Ein tschechisches Dienstmädchen* (A Czech Serving Girl), 1909.

The few novels of his that he felt would deserve rereading and rediscovering should include *Stefan Rott oder Das Jahr der Entscheidung* (Stefan Rott or The Year of Decision), 1931, which he dedicated to his mother.

Nearly all Prague writers wrote a story about a love affair between a middle-class youth and a Czech serving girl, but Brod succeeded in transforming what was a trivial subject.

Nine years after Arthur Schnitzler he experimented with the *monologue intérieur* and explained how a fleeting experience can snap the causal chain of history and hostility between nationalities.

Stefan Rott is arguably a Prague answer to Thomas Mann's *Magic Mountain*.

Young Rott (whose name rhymes with Brod when pronounced in the Czech manner) has to find his own way in spring and summer 1914 between illusion and despair at a time when the world is on the point of plunging into catastrophe.

With one of his teachers he holds lively conversations on Plato. A peevish and mendacious woman captivates him against his will.

Re-creating a horror beyond tears



George Tabori... full of plans (Photo: Barbara Klemm)

George Tabori, 70, has been part of the German theatre scene ever since his play *Die Kannibalen* was first performed in Germany in 1969.

It was at the Schiller-Theater in West Berlin, and Tabori co-directed the production.

Everything about him was different: his theatrical blood, his sensuality, his new note, his uncustomed vividness and what he had to say as the outsider he has always been.

He was born in Budapest. His parents were Hungarian Jews. When Hitler took power he was a 19-year-old in Berlin.

He made his getaway via Prague and Vienna to London, becoming a naturalised Briton and earning his living as a waiter and cook.

He later worked as a foreign correspondent, visiting many countries in Europe and the Middle East. In the Second World War he served in the intelligence corps with the British.

After the war he left for America, leaving behind his brother Paul, a leading member of the PEN Writers in Exile centre.

In the United States he met Brecht and made first contact with the theatre, having already published books of prose writing in Britain.

But many more years were to go by before he decided to go ahead and stage his experiences of the age in which we live.

His father and other members of the family died in Auschwitz. His mother escaped deportation to the gas chamber by a hair's breadth.

He tells her tale with admirable detachment in a story entitled *Mother's Courage* in his book *Son of a Bitch*.



Max Brod... productive life (Photo: Erika)

He finally realises that she resists "the windswept, half-vanishing past" of his young mother.

A Czech schoolfriend takes him along to meetings of an anarchist group where he gets to know another side of the coin: the police, spies and agitators.

Max Brod's art consists of dissecting thoughts and conflicts, private and public, affirmation and negation of life, the atmosphere, like clouds over the roofs of old Prague.

He records the light and darkness of his youth and a European age, no age that ended on the outbreak of the First World War.

What is sad and oppressive is given a light touch that is sure to last - 50 years and more.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 24 May 1984)

In the early 1960s he adapted Frisch's *Andorra* and Bertolt Brecht's *Arthur Ur* before writing plays of his own.

They included *Die Kannibalen*, *Improvisationen über Shakespeares Shylock*, 1978, and *Jubiläum*, 1983.

His ability to depict horror and suffering has made audiences live their shock about Auschwitz and the shadows of the past are by no means limited to Auschwitz.

Pinkville, 1971, is like a burial in vice for a child murdered in Vietnam.

His stage versions of Kafka and Beckett collages are, like his adaptation of Hans Magnus Enzensberger's *Thänie*, meant to be of contemporary relevance as signs of an impending change of the world.

As a director Tabori has from the start been very much his own man, though his speciality is working in the group. *Pinkville* was produced with students at the Max-Reinhardt-Schule in Berlin.

In Bremen and Munich he has formed companies of his own with whom he staged unusual and extraordinary productions. Yet one is reluctant to call these productions experiments even though they always feature new ideas.

They are all an expression of his passion and imagination, his human concern. Theatre, he says, must serve people who in turn must be an alternative to God.

In Cologne, where many of his productions have been staged, he had to say in an interview in answer to a question: "What would God say to me?"

Continued on page 11

THE CINEMA

Top Cannes award to German director

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

an almost washed out this year's Cannes Film Festival until Wim Wenders' *Paris, Texas* was screened.

It is a beautiful, mainly subjective, moving film, the most impressive American film in America since *American Friend* in 1977.

Typical Wenders references and symbolism are missing, which gives *Paris, Texas* the melancholy quality of an interpretation by Edward Hopper.

The film's idea was developed by Wenders himself from a short story. In it, Shepard, the American dramatist, returns to Texas in the middle of the prairie.

Wenders returns for one night with his son and tells him what Paris means to him, what it meant to his own father, who always pretended that his wife was a prostitute, and who only loved this woman in her.

Wenders wants to build a life for himself and his young wife in the same place because he was the outcome of his parents' love. This makes *Paris, Texas* a cipher for unexpressed desires.

The German director has created a light touch that is sure to last - 50 years and more.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 24 May 1984)

Continued from page 10

"I haven't heard anything from him for years."

In other words, God exists even though much to man's chagrin, he says nothing. But we are still called on to wonder why.

George Tabori's living theatre has done more than most to enrich the contemporary German stage. At 70 he is still as full of plans as he was when his career began.

We can count ourselves lucky that he, a cosmopolitan, has chosen in spite of everything to settle in this country.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 May 1984)

Europe's first cooperative venture immediately after the European elections will be a film festival.

Fifty films will be featured and there will be directors from 26 countries in Eastern and Western Europe. It will run from 23 June to 1 July in Munich.

Two years ago the European Parliament suggested a festival and the European Commission offered cash. The festival patron will be the President of the Commission, Gaston Thorn.

The European Film Directors Society is backing to the idea at its conference in San Sebastian, Spain.

It was how popular the first Munich film festival last year was with the public.

The idea of the Munich festival, organised by Eberhard Hauff, was not solely to achieve commercial success or to disperse expensive prizes, but to be an advertisement for the cinema, as Hauff himself said.

speaking, but who only wants to express himself in movement, who runs until he collapses; two brothers on a car trip through America search for a mother; a father and son searching for a mother; a man and his wife who speak to each other through the glass window of a peep-show, seeking each other again and again without being able to see or touch each other.

This film does not tell a story that moves forward. Its story-telling power comes much more from the frames created round the main characters.

Harry Dean Stanton, well known for his supporting roles, mainly sinister, in many American action films, plays Travis. He does so with beautiful control, with economy and realism, and at the same time recalling the classical outsider figures of the American film.

When he collapses that is the beginning of his rescue. He is the man, when looked at closely, who has a secret, and that is the film's fascination. But not until the end is it revealed what he had done with the lost years of his life.

Nastasia Kinski plays Harry Dean Stanton's wife. The age difference - she is twenty and he is in his late fifties - heightens the romantic appeal of their story.

Ry Cooder wrote the music that keeps pace with the rhythm of the film even to individual camera movements.



Travis (Harry Dean Stanton) and son Hunter (Hunter Carson) in *Paris, Texas* (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

Euro festival arranged for Munich

The festival will not be aimed at a select few of insiders, but at the film-going general public, who are entertained by the art of the film.

The festival should be an ideal meeting point for directors from Moscow to Lisbon, from Oslo to Istanbul.

Not only will films be shown during the nine-day event at the four festival cinemas but there will be an information centre on Munich's Lenbachplatz. Here it will be possible to hold discussions with film people about the problems of the film or, more close to home, "Is there a European value in European films?"

Stranger than Paradise by Jim Jarmusch is another film from the same corner of America that Wenders' new film depicts. Jim Jarmusch was Wenders' assistant in *Nick's Movie*.

Two young men and a girl are on a trip to paradise - Florida. They come from New York, a city that looks like a bomb site after a future war.

In Ohio they come into a landscape of snow and fog.

In Florida the first they buy are sunglasses. They see the country through the eyes of strangers. They experience the closeness of others as a tender feeling, a wordless friendship.

Stranger than Paradise is about strangers alienated in Paradise.

There is no better aspirant in Cannes for the Golden Camera award than this young director.

John Laurie, who plays one of the young men, composed the music for this at times comical film.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 May 1984)

How fame and success discovered Wenders, the reluctant celebrity

As soon as the last notes of the music in Wim Wenders' *Paris, Texas* had faded from the talk at the 37th Cannes Film Festival was that Wenders was far and away the best candidate for the Golden Palm award.

No journalists had had a sneak preview. The film arrived in Cannes fresh from the copying table in the original English version with subtitles.

Wenders was born in Düsseldorf in 1936. In 1971 he helped found the Filmverlag der Autoren, the young film-makers' distribution organisation. He won the Golden Lion award in Venice in 1982 with *Der Stand der Dinge*, which marked him as one of the most important young West German directors.

In 1976 he was awarded the International Film Critics Prize for *Im Lauf der Zeit*. The year before he had filmed the Patricia

Highsmith thriller, *The American Friend*, on the Cote d'Azur.

He is an introvert who shuns society and parties. But this film turned him into an international celebrity.

A little later he achieved what most directors long for, despite criticism of studio politics; he was invited to Hollywood to make a film for Francis Ford Coppola about the American classic thriller writer Dashiell Hammett, author of *The Maltese Falcon* and *The Thin Man*.

But it was not as easy in America as Wenders had hoped. The project was tough and clear and Coppola was not happy with Wenders' work. He had a part of the filming re-done.

When the filming was completed Wenders went to New York and made a film with the fatally ill Nicolas Ray. The two produced one of the most moving documentary films of our times, *Lightning over Water*.

He dedicated it to Ray, one of America's greatest entertainment-film directors.

Hannunet was finished in 1982, the same year that *Der Stand der Dinge* was victorious in Venice.

Basically *Hannunet* is Wenders' settling of accounts with Coppola, the story of a European director who under adverse circumstances, particularly financial, has to make a film for an American director.

While working in Hollywood Wenders met the actor and film scriptwriter, Sam Shepard. Wenders invited him to write the script for *Paris, Texas*.

At the beginning the film did not have a title. Wenders said: "I looked at a map of America and I found 22 places named Paris and 16 named Berlin. Paris won in the end."

The film, as so often with Wenders, deals with a journey. Wenders' characters are similar to those in *Stand der Dinge* and *Im Lauf der Zeit*.

In the course of their pilgrimage they learn something about themselves and the meaning of their lives and recognise what they are seeking.

Wenders said: "My films are very personal. They are a mirror of my own thoughts and dreams, my anxieties and my hopes."

(Margarite von Schwarzkopf, Die Welt, 23 May 1984)



Wim Wenders with his Golden Palm award in Cannes. With him on the platform is actress Fey Dunaway, one of the judges. (Photo: A1)

THE ENVIRONMENT

Digging deep into the issue of sludge

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

Sewerage systems in several German Länder are nearing the limit of their capacity. Extensive works programmes are likely to be needed.

This was one of the many issues involving refuse disposal and waste recycling that came under scrutiny during an international fair in Munich.

In the Seventh International Waste Disposal Trade Fair, Ifat 84, there were about 750 exhibitors from 19 countries.

Events included the annual meeting of the Association of Local Government Refuse Disposal Authorities and the Sixth European Effluent and Waste Symposium.

The symposium was held by the European Water Pollution Control Association, to which 13 countries belong. Sludge was the main topic dealt with.

Initially a sewerage trade gathering, the fair was upgraded in the early 1970s to include waste disposal as a logical enlargement and extension of the range of goods and services on show.

They were joined by facilities to keep cities and city streets clean.

Since the early 1970s sewage purification and waste recycling have been subject to ecological postulates and mandatory controls in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The consequence has been an integrated range of technical facilities that are a market factor of some importance.

They include the collection and transport of liquid and solid waste, intermediate storage, processing plant, sorting and recycling, special vehicles, compactors, presses, pumps, containers, machinery and public works.

The Ifo economic research institute, Munich, estimates turnover in the German environmental protection market to have totalled between DM16bn and DM18bn in 1980.

Sewage was found to be the largest sector, followed by the prevention of atmospheric pollution and the waste disposal industry.

Twenty-two million cubic metres of sewage a day pile up in the public sector. In the 1970s substantial investments were made in new sewage facilities and extensions to existing ones.

Eighty-nine per cent of West Germans have access to the public sewerage and drainage system. In Britain the percentage is 90, in Sweden 83, in France 56 and in Greece 25.

The target, economically feasible, in the Federal Republic is 92 per cent.

There are 8,200 sewerage works, 240 of which handle the sewage equivalent of over 100,000 and 2,600 that of over 10,000 people.

About 60 per cent treat sewage by biological means only and a further 21 per cent use partly biological techniques.

Experts say the level reached over the country as a whole ought to largely ensure that water resources are not overburdened with organic substances.

Progress in techniques of chemical

analysis has, however, presented the sewage industry with fresh problems.

In several Länder the existing sewerage system is likely to reach the full extent of its capacity soon. Further improvements to the quality of main drainage channels will only be possible by means of extensive flanking measures.

Industrial effluent, for instance, may have to be specially treated before being pumped into the public sewage system when it contains poorly degradable or toxic substances.

Overspill may have to be cut back in rainy weather. Third purification stages may have to be added to filter out nutrients, for instance.

Management planning will supply information on the nature and necessity of such measures in relation to water quality and requirements.

Sewage sludge conveys some idea of the close connection between sewage technology and the waste disposal industry.

As a waste product needing further handling or processing, sludge already accounts for the lion's share of sewage waste.

Current totals in the Federal Republic are 26 million tons of domestic and industrial waste per year, 6.5 million tons of household refuse for special collection and waste swept together by street cleaners, and nearly 50 million tons of sewage sludge.

This last figure includes only a fraction of industrial sludge.

At present sludge is processed in septic tanks so as to degrade organic substances. It is then dumped and composted, accounting for about 40 per cent of the total.

The 30 to 40 per cent of composted sewage sludge used in agriculture is increasingly encountering misgivings as most sludge contains heavy metals and other dangerous substances.

So sewage sludge seems predestined to end mainly as a waste product once it is suitably processed.

Waste as a whole is increasingly important as an indispensable recycling and energy potential, so for years there has been a trend away from mere waste disposal and storage without putting the waste to further use.

A planned economic waste cycle including a wide range of processes for further use and recycling is steadily gaining acceptance as the objective.

About 6,000 garbage trucks and 20,000 dustmen do a full day's work emptying dustbins and collecting domestic refuse. This waste is processed at 3,150 disposal facilities.

The economics

A ton of garbage costs between DM50 and DM100 to collect, of which wage bills account for about 70 per cent.

If waste is dumped on a single tip, further costs may amount to between DM15 and DM70 per ton.

Incineration costs between DM50 and DM200 per ton extra, composting between DM90 and DM200 per ton.

Costs can be cut by harnessing process heat to generate power or for piped heating. Scrap metal and slag can also be extracted.

An interesting Environmental Protection Agency research project is under way to probe the possibility of jointly fermenting processed domestic refuse and sewage sludge to produce commercially usable biogas.

(Handelsblatt, 16 May 1984)

Surfactants, key to effective yet harmless detergents

Older housewives who have spent years hailing washing and slaving over washboards will have no sympathy with environmentalists who vilify modern detergents.

The had old days are not so long gone as a generation that has never known anything but washing machines might imagine, and detergents are certainly most convenient.

But waves of protest regularly sweep the country in connection with a crucial ingredient of modern detergents: surface-active agents, or surfactants.

Protest was warranted 20 years ago, when surfactant-saturated rivers foamed at their banks.

Detergent ingredients in those days were poorly biodegradable, proving in a drastic manner that chemicals manufacturers had marketed products before fully realising the consequences.

All countries where these detergents were sold promptly imposed restrictions and forced detergent manufacturers to use biodegradable surfactants with which biological purification processes in sewage works could cope.

Water that is pumped back into the rivers nowadays is 97 per cent cleansed of surfactants. Countless microbes break them up, but were only able to do so after surface-active agents had been devised that were a virtual hem-fest for bacteria.

This was an extremely welcome development inasmuch as these substances take the place of the phosphates that so over-enrich still waters in particular.

Professor B. Werdelmann told the World Surfactants Congress in Munich that surface-active agents were the "heart of detergents and the open sesame for many technical processes and products."

When the fire brigade, for instance, needs to pump more water through its hoses in less time, it needs surfactants to reduce water friction within the hose.

When a skin cream is to be marketed as an emulsion of fat and water, a trace of surfactant must be added as an emulsifier.

When electronic sewing machine needles zoom through material at a rate of 6,000 stitches a minute, the fabric needs to have been treated with surface-active agents to ensure that threads are displaceable and the material doesn't catch fire.

And when a housewife needs a detergent that works its way between the dirt and the fabric of her washing, she will invariably buy some surfactant or other as part of the bargain.

This, and much more, is possible because surfactant molecules combine a water-repellent and a water-compatible part and relieve the surface tension of water by molecular means.

When a drop of surface-active agent hits a puddle, insects known as pond-skaters immediately sink and are drowned.

Surfactants are extremely versatile by virtue of their ability to work their way beneath matter glued to a surface of any kind.

Surfactants are all artificial, being manufactured to formulas devised in research laboratories, but in principle they are by no means unnatural substances.

None of our body cells could work if cell membranes were not based on the same chemical principle. We wouldn't even be able to breathe if natural sur-

factants didn't enlarge the surface of lung vesicles.

But surface-active agents are not invariably harmless. Trout young, for instance, die immediately if there is the slightest trace of surfactant in the water. So it is just as well that trout don't live in polluted waters.

Fish are definitely asphyxiated there are too many surfactants in the water. Their gills no longer function.

That was why it took so long to develop surfactants that were both biodegradable and non-toxic in the concentrations in which they left sewage farms.

Further development is continuing. Chemists plan further unusual properties and at present there can be no fundamental objections to what they have achieved.

A washing machine system already in prototype with electronic control that cheek with the machine what it is capable of accepting as true memory washing it is loaded with, how much water and what kind of dirt it is.

Depending on the answers given, a microcomputer regulates temperature, water level, mechanics, time and the combination of surfactants, solvents and other detergent ingredients.

The result is said to be an ideal that with nothing but the minimum that is needed being used, including mechanical processes.

A Swiss process unveiled at the Munich congress is capable of determining the toxic or non-toxic nature of synthetic surfactants without tests in laboratory animals.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 May 1984)

Lead-free fuel 1989 is the EEC deadline

The European Commission has decided to recommend the introduction of unleaded petrol throughout the EEC from 1989.

Lead-free fuel must be available in all Common Market countries, but so far the leaded variety.

Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes, whose Brussels brief includes environmental protection, says the Ten will require to weight oil duties to make leaded fuel cheaper than the variety sold at European filling stations.

Any EEC country that wants to introduce unleaded petrol earlier, but there must be no discrimination against imported cars.

The Commission has also advocated more stringent vehicle emission regulations already in force in the United States and Japan.

At a later stage, by 1995, all cars in EEC roads will be required to be converted to comply with pollution control regulations already in force in the United States and Japan.

The Bonn government is keen to encourage the use of unleaded petrol available from 1989. It would have to allow the continued sale of leaded fuel and would be unable to restrict before 1989 imports of new cars converted for use with unleaded fuel.

The Brussels directive must first be approved by EEC Environment Ministers who meet in Paris on 28 June.

(Kölnner Stadt-Anzeiger, 18 May 1984)

HEALTH

Eidetically speaking, you're hallucinating, sir!

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Experimental psychology does not get much public attention and the annual conference this year in Nuremberg was almost unnoticed.

The four-day event was held in the university's scientific faculty, discussing the results of experiments on people's behaviour and experience.

Professor W. Traxel of Pannau University opened the conference with a talk on "Subjective mental images — phenomena or Phantoms?" asking the question if there were eidetically talented people, meaning people who were able to accept as true memory pictures in the imagination.

For a long time it has been assumed that eidetic people were particularly good at accepting as true memory pictures in the imagination. For a long time it has been assumed that eidetic people were particularly good at accepting as true memory pictures in the imagination.

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langen has for a number of years specialised in this subject.

The group dealing with environmental psychology was of particular interest going way beyond the traditional areas of research.

The Darmstadt Institute 'Home and the Environment' suggested that there should be legal provisions for families as regards flats, because families with children often found it difficult to rent accommodation that met their needs.

Dr A. Flinde said that the living situation had a lot to do with the development of a child's social attitudes. The behaviour of a family group to one another depended on the condition of the home, for it is one of the centres of life.

There was food for thought in the knowledge that the usual size of a child's room in a flat was 8.3 square metres.

The new developments in family homes indicate that there should be a central community room used jointly by the family. The division of the other rooms should be left to the discretion of the family, so that large rooms could be partitioned into smaller units.

The important fact is that there is no such thing as a basic model, for each family has its own requirements and needs.

These ideas are not just pie-in-the-sky for in Frankfurt twenty-four "experimental" homes of this kind have been built and the first six have been occupied. It is proposed to ask family members how they would like to have the accommodation arranged. It is possible that other builders could follow this example and build family accommodation at the same cost.

The Nuremberg conference was right up-to-date in examining the problems surrounding the media.

Several investigations of Bildschirmtext, text on a television screen, have underlined the fact that "screen newspapers" are not an advantage to the users. Apart from technical problems it was the presentation of the text in closely-

spaced lines that covered the whole of the screen that made it difficult to read the text.

Test people, selected to read the screen texts, whose eye movements were measured, often moved on to the wrong line when reading a screen text. This "eye error" affected understanding of the text considerably.

Although the conference was conceived as a forum for the younger generation of scientists there were very few students who attended the event. The specialists keep very much to themselves, and there was even little communication between the various groups.

So the conference was not the "look over the fence" that it was hoped it would be. This was probably due to the fact that the numbers of specialists attending was enormous, over 800, and more than 300 papers were read.

Susanne Neumann
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 24 May 1984)

Children 'going back to drink'

An increasing number of children are drinking too much alcohol and misusing medicines, a meeting in Cologne has been told.

One delegate to the school children's health conference 1984 said that drugs seemed to have lost their attraction.

Educational lecturer Reinhard Voss from Dortmund University warned that children were increasingly turning towards tablets to overcome their problems.

Twelve per cent of school children were in the habit of taking tablets to improve their concentration in class. Many became addicted.

Clinic Dieter Hammer from the West German Addicts Aid, Munich, said that 1.1 million school boys and girls between the age of twelve and fifteen regularly drank alcohol. Ten per cent were dependent.

Child psychiatrist Helmut Hünnekens from Münster supported his statement that drugs had lost their attraction among West German school children with statistics.

In 1971 69 per cent of all drug addicts were under 21, but in 1982 this had dropped to 34.7 per cent. dpa
(Nordwest Zeitung, 15 May 1984)

Acupuncture for alcoholics, drug addicts

into the use of acupuncture in the treatment of addiction.

Since 1980 a total of 200 patients had been treated with acupuncture and 180 had been cured of their dependence without the use of medications.

The remaining ten per cent had been given medications, usually tranquilizers, to calm them down, but even here the dosage had only been a tenth of what is usually given to patients who are being treated without acupuncture.

Statistics indicate that addiction treated by medications takes one to four weeks to take effect, but with acupuncture the treatment is on average effective after three to five days.

This means that it is possible to begin the weaning process much earlier.

The two doctors maintain that in their observation the patients took a

more active part in the treatment, mainly because during the withdrawal period they were "active" and not drugged into a calm condition.

Marx and Pörr estimate that between eight to ten per cent of all professional people in West Germany are either alcohol dependent or in danger of becoming so.

Out-patient treatment showed that between forty and fifty per cent again had to be treated for alcoholism.

The Gütersloh doctors maintained that the number of their patients treated by acupuncture who had a relapse was no greater than in other drug-addict clinics.

In the best cure conditions, for instance when the patient's employer was involved, the proportion of those who had a relapse was only ten per cent.

Acupuncture treatment showed that during the withdrawal phase and during the weaning off period there was no danger of the patient's condition being aggravated by drugs that had side-effects.

Christoph Lügert
(Rheinische Post, 19 May 1984)

Self-help for Everyman

There are more than 5,000 self-help groups in West Germany. They are divided into 20 regions.

Groups include the lonely, housewives, single parents, people who stammer and the seriously ill.

Regular meetings are held in Frankfurt. At a recent meeting, more than 200 people turned up.

Twenty-three year old Peter, who has cancer, travelled with a sleeping bag under his arm to the meeting. Invalids and people suffering from rheumatism invited relatives to take them to Frankfurt University, to the social centre where the meeting took place.

The theme for discussion was the difficulty in being able to discuss "the problems of life" and the various activities of the self-help groups.

One participant said: "I wanted to make contact with other groups in the Rhine-Main area and I have been successful."

Another complained: "The meeting resulted in nothing concrete."

But it did awaken a self-awareness in the self-help groups.

Professor Michael Lukas Moeller, a psychoanalyst and founder of the association of West German self-help groups, said that the meeting was astonishing and useful.

Professor Moeller who works in the psycho-social department of Frankfurt University, said that the self-help group conference was organised to act as "a bridge between the medical side and the self-help groups."

Several groups complained that in the discussions the scientific people only caused irritation, but Professor Moeller spoke of the necessity of therapeutic advice.

Claude, 33, a participant confined to a wheel-chair as a result of an accident, did not want to come into contact with self-help groups. She said: "I shall not go there. Why should I tell strangers about my private life?" But she changed her mind and overcame her inhibitions. She now goes to Frankfurt twice a month to the meetings.

Professor Moeller said that there was a self-help group for every kind of illness and personal crisis.

There are more than one hundred thousand discussion groups of this sort in the USA.

The idea sprang from alcoholics anonymous, which now has more than 220,000 groups. dpa
(Mannheimer Morgen, 14 May 1984)

Warning on dangers of salt

West Germans have been urged to change their eating habits.

A senior Bonn Health Ministry official, Werner Chory, told a meeting in Baden-Baden, that so far Germans had resisted all efforts to improve their diets.

He told members of the Baden-Baden health-food association that poor health caused by poor diet, the origin of diabetes and high blood pressure, cost the economy an estimated 17 billion marks a year.

Cory said that foods such as meat products, cheese, bread and pastries should have less salt.

The Health Ministry is to see if the legislation can be changed. dpa
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 11 May 1984)

■ OBERAMMERGAU

Still the ring of controversy over Passion Play

RHEINISCHE POST

Three hundred and fifty years ago the first Passion Play was performed in Oberammergau, Bavaria, after a pledge by the villagers the year before, in 1633, when the Plague threatened to kill them all.

They swore that if they survived and the village was never visited by the Plague again, they would stage a Passion Play every 10 years in praise of the Lord. Oberammergau has since been spared the Black Death and the villagers have kept their side of the bargain.

There was an epidemic of plague in Ancient Rome in 364 BC, according to the Roman historian Livy, and the Romans were told by their priestesses to change their circus programmes.

Instead of sending gladiators and wild animals into the ring they were to stage dances to the accompaniment of flute music as performed by the Etruscans. They would appease the anger of the gods, freeing the body of plague and the mind of fear.

These dances gradually evolved into what was to become the Roman stage, which is where the comparison ends: Oberammergau was not the birthplace of the German theatre.

It is surprising no-one has ever noted the striking similarity between events in Ancient Rome and mediaeval Oberammergau.

Livy supplied a convincing psychological explanation for the fact that the Plague did not recur. The dances, he wrote, freed the soul of fear.

An earlier, Greek philosopher, Aristotle, who took a closer look at the stage, coined in his Poetics the term catharsis, meaning a purging of the soul, which was how he saw the outlet to emotion afforded by drama.

Nowadays the Plague is felt to have been beaten, but fear has increased, which is one explanation for the interest shown by people from all over the world in the Bavarian village.

Oberammergau is arguably a place of pilgrimage where people succeed in purging their fears.

For others, notably everyone who is anyone in Munich, including the Bavarian Prime Minister and his Baden-

Württemberg counterpart, it is part of the society season, like Bayreuth.

Visitors from the New World are sure to feel Europe is rightly described in icing sugar terms in guide books.

Only Jews from overseas seem sick and tired of being blamed decade after decade (and in this anniversary decade after an interval of only four years, not 10) for something for which they were historically unable to do anything about: the crucifixion of Christ.

Overseas travel agents have returned tickets by the parcel, claiming (as many people in Germany do) that the Passion Play is still anti-Jewish.

The present text is based on a version by a Benedictine monk, Othmar Weis, written in 1810/11 and revised by Joseph Alois Daisenberger in 1850 and 1860 and by Gregor Rümmelein in 1980.

It has been submitted to and approved by the ecumenical commission of the Standing Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops in Germany, but what other conclusion could the commission have reached?

The Play still is anti-Jewish, but no longer to an intolerable extent over and above the tale of Christ's suffering told by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the New Testament.

Naturally, one might argue, the son (Christianity) takes a much harsher view of the father (Judaism) than the

differences between them can possibly warrant. In this case the father is in the bad books of the powers that be (the Roman empire), whereas the son is hoping to insinuate himself into the Romans' good graces. The first Christians, and with them the writers of the Four Gospels, wildly exaggerated the Jews' "guilt." Historians, including ecclesiastical historians, doubt whether the Jews could have been to blame for the death of Christ.

But to rewrite the Oberammergau Passion Play would be tantamount to rewriting the Gospels.

A Baroque version written for Oberammergau in 1750 by Ferdinand Rosner, a Benedictine monk from Ettal, unfortunately failed to gain acceptance in 1977.

It was no less anti-Jewish than the existing version but of a much higher linguistic and literary standard.

The Weis-Daisenberger-Rümmelein version is decidedly pedestrian in comparison, but the villagers prefer it and look likely to do so for good (always as-



Jesus (Rudolf Zwink) and Mary at the paterfamilias (Photo: AP)



Jesus (Max Jablonka) being greeted by the Jews in Jerusalem (Photo: AP)

MODERN LIVING

Attempt to clamp down on adoption black market

General-Anzeiger

huge, unsatisfied demand for children to adopt has led to a flourishing market trade in West Germany.

More than 11,000 adoptions are arranged every year through the German authorities, but there are more than 10,000 applicant couples. And the number of rising demand and inadequate supply is growing if anything.

One reason is that the Pill has reduced the number of unwanted children. Another is that many couples put off having a child until they are established in their careers and financially sound. It is then too late to have their own child.

Couples are driven to agencies that are in getting children from the Third World. Prices vary between 18,000 and 30,000 marks.

Private adoption agencies are prohibited by law in West Germany. Objections to black market agencies are that they have little control over such things as the health of the child, the new parents are ill-prepared for the experience of adoption, and profiteering practices can be used to hand over their children.

In 1982, a hair-raising case emerged in Turkey when a ring specialising in trafficking was broken in Istanbul. A group of doctors had been writing death certificates for perfectly healthy newborn babies, telling the mothers that their children had died, and selling the babies overseas.

Rita Köter, who works for the adoption department of the youth welfare authority in Bonn, says that many of these days don't even bother asking the adoption authorities. She says they go straight to the illegal agen-

cies. But illegality is clearly no deterrent. Swiss and Dutch operators often use newspaper small advertisements to contact childless parents. Sometimes, photo-

graphs are even produced so couples can pick out a child themselves.

Edward Tack, of the Federal Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs and Health, says that especially reprehensible are those who are often paid to hand over their

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blish if the couple are able to take the pressure and make sacrifices.

Frau Köter: "The welfare of the children is the first consideration."

Couples who get the all clear can then apply to any adoption agency in the country. The Bonn youth authority gets between 300 and 400 applications a month.

Couples who are not too rigid on insisting on a baby have a better chance of getting a child quickly. So do couples who are willing to take a child with behavioural problems.

These days, says the authority, children don't suffer from being kept in an institution as they once did. For one, workers in children's homes are more qualified. The children live in family-like groups and have a father or mother figure to identify with.

In addition, experience over the years has shown that behavioural problems can disappear if the child enters a stable, long-term family relationship.

The Frankfurt youth authority has taken a rare initiative in this field. It advertises for parents for older children through newspapers. The project is in conjunction with an advertising agency.

The risks of adopting an older child are not hidden, but the aim is to encourage people to decide to take an older child. Over five years, almost 40 adoptions have been arranged in this way.

In Munich, a child centre headed by Professor Hellbrügge has also broken new ground. This programme involves bringing handicapped children carefully into contact with potential parents.

Attempts are made to build up a relationship between the child and the couple using reciprocal visits. The couple take part in therapy and help to look after it over weeks and months.

Through this, affection on both sides is given a chance to grow and, with it, belief by the couple that they have made the right decision.

But so much imagination is not usually shown by adoption agencies in West Germany. Business is mostly conducted along the old lines with their regulations that many parents find abhorrent. This is despite the fact that basic changes to the adoption laws in 1977 improved some things.

Certainly one achievement is the requirement that homes must now register all their children. This means that there are no more cases of forgotten children.

However, there are still 130,000 children in West German homes. Many have no prospect of getting a family. Many are not suitable for adoption — some are too old, some have behavioural problems that are too severe, others are handicapped, and in other cases, the natural parents will allow neither adoption nor long-term foster care.

Sigrid Latka-Jöhning
(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 12 May 1984)

which is also known for its woodcarving and rustic painting, has an eye for colour.

That finally brings us to the point where carping criticism yields to ungrudging admiration: the crowd. It is amazing how directors Hans Maier sen. and Franz Zwink keep the villagers on the move.

Billy Wilder, the German-American film director, is said to have told Hollywood directors entrusted with well-known historical films of yesteryear to visit Oberammergau and see how the villagers handled the crowd scenes.

The scene in which the priests win over the excited masses is superb despite being the peak of anti-Judaism. Annas and Caiaphas shout slogans to rouse the crowd of well over 100 villag-

craaged between 3 and 70.

The crowd surge forward toward Pontius Pilate, are thrown back, then surge forward again, arms outstretched in reflection of the movement of their bodies and shouts echoing and escalating their anger.

The Roman soldiers gradually offer resistance to the surging crowd and the entire stage is transformed as people move first one way, then the other in a war of emotion that is both seen and heard.

Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss once said Upper Bavarians were as good as gold and not given to protest. Does he still feel so after seeing this year's crowd scenes at Oberammergau?

Karl-Jürgen Miesien
(Rheinische Post, 22 May 1984)

Members of a Euro-parliament committee have been considering the prickly issue in countless sitting for almost two years.

Now members of parliament must decide what to do. They must decide where to strike the balance between safeguarding civil liberties such as religious freedom and the right of the individual freely to develop his or her personality and yet reduce the danger posed by the more destructive of the cults.

West German Social Democrat Olaf Schwencke says the Euro-parliament must make itself the advocate of young sect members and their families. Young people had to be protected from being economically exploited and mentally incapacitated by the sects. The sects were a growing threat to society.

British Euro-MP Richard Cottrell (Conservative) has made a study of how the sects operate and win adherents.

In a report, he says they use questionable recruiting techniques, employ brain-washing methods, isolate young people from their parents and cut contact with the outside world.

Cottrell mentions broken families, young people who have lost their personalities, who have sacrificed fortunes, who have committed crimes and who have gone into prostitution.

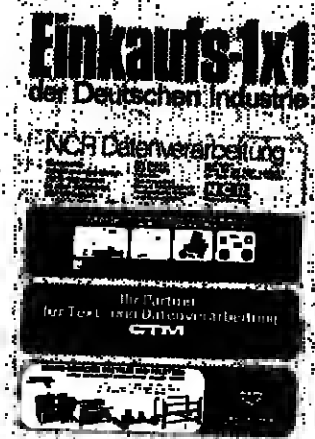
He specifically mentions the Scientology church of American Ron Hubbard, the Children of God and the Unification church (Moonies) of the Rev Sun Myung Moon, who has been jailed for 18 months in America on charges of tax evasion.

In West Germany there are an estimated 300,000 sect adherents. About 70,000 are with Scientology and between 40,000 and 50,000 with the Bhagwan.

The sects also operate extensively in other European countries, especially France and Britain.

dpa
(Köln Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 May 1984)

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